
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5429

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CRAFT ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR DISTILLER PERMIT.

SUMMARY:

This bill creates a craft alcoholic liquor distiller permit. The permit allows retail alcoholic liquor sales in limited amounts, from the permitted premises, to consumers for off-premises consumption. Such retail sales are prohibited under a manufacturer permit. It also allows a permittee to manufacture, bottle, store, distribute, and sell at wholesale, alcoholic liquor distilled on its permitted premises. The annual permit fee is \$1,000. The Department of Consumer Protection must approve the distiller's manufacturing place or its plan before granting a permit.

To qualify for a permit, a distiller, in combination with any parent or subsidiary business or related or affiliated company, must not distill more than 25,000 gallons per year. Those that annually distill more must obtain the manufacturer permit (CGS § 30-16).

Craft alcoholic liquor permittees are prohibited from selling, at retail for off-premises consumption (1) more than 1.5 liters of alcoholic liquor to any one consumer each day and (2) on Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, or Christmas. Craft distillers are subject to the retail minimum pricing law (CGS § 30-68m) if they sell through a wholesale distributor.

Under the bill, the permit also authorizes the on-premises offering and tasting of paid or free samples of spirits distilled on the premises. The tastings must not (1) exceed two ounces per patron per day or (2) be offered to, or allowed to be consumed by, an intoxicated person or anyone under age 21.

The bill specifically prohibits a craft alcoholic liquor distiller permittee or backer from also holding or backing a manufacturer permit or out-of-state shipper's permit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 3 (03/13/2014)